

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stairlift chair including a pair of armrests, each of the said armrests having an upper surface; and a hand control interface mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest on which the hand control is mounted to effect movement of a stairlift on which the stairlift chair is mounted, wherein said hand control interface is, in normal use, angled upwardly out of ~~a the~~ the plane defined by of the upper surface of the armrest to which said hand control interface is attached, said hand control having and has a substantially planar palm contacting surface which forms a substantial extension of the plane of said upper surface the armrest to which said hand control is mounted.
2. (Currently amended) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said hand control interface is pivotable ~~with respect to said armrest~~ about a substantially vertical axis.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 3 wherein said hand control interface has ~~a substantially planar upper surface and side surfaces aligned substantially perpendicularly to said palm contacting upper surface.~~
5. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one of said armrests has a longitudinal axis, the position of said control interface being adjustable along said longitudinal axis.
6. (Canceled)

7. (currently amended) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said hand control interface comprises embodies a power isolation switch.

8. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The stairlift chair of claim 1, where the hand control interface further comprises side surfaces configured to permit smooth contact by the side of a user's hand.

11. (Currently amended) The stairlift chair of claim 1, wherein said palm contacting surface is constructed and arranged to underlie at least 50% of the area of a user's palm.

12. (Currently amended) A stairlift comprising a stairlift chair, said chair having a pair of armrests; a manually engageable and displaceable hand control interface mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest on which it is mounted to effect movement of said stairlift, said hand control interface including a body member engageable by a user's hand wherein said body member is formed in two parts which are displaceable with respect to one another such that, in a first configuration of said two parts, said hand control interface is inactive.

13. (currently amended) A stairlift ~~An interface~~ as claimed in claim 12 wherein, when said body parts are in said first configuration, the resulting form of said body differs visually and/or provides a different tactile sensation to the user's hand than when said body parts are in an operative configuration.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 assembly including: a rail; a carriage mounted for movement along said rail; drive means within said carriage for driving said carriage along said rail; a chair mounted on said carriage; and at least one hand operated control

whereby an occupant of said chair can control the operation of said drive means, said stairlift assembly being characterized in that wherein a sensor is provided to sense when a user is occupying said chair, said sensor being further operable to isolate and energise said hand operated control.

16- 21. (Canceled)